

One of the most significant, and indeed a classical example, is provided by Watson. In *Psychological Care of Infant and Child*, Watson advocates that mothers should "condition their children not to reach out for things they are not intended to have, for example, utensils on the meal table, by rapping them over the knuckle with a pencil. He appears seriously to suggest that such a situation, in which *the mother* deliberately causes pain to the child (its slightness is irrelevant), is exactly parallel to the child's falling down and bumping his own knee on the floor. That is to say, if the mother makes her attitude impersonal and unemotional, she really becomes as neutral *to the child* as a piece of furniture is. Such a proposition surely needs only to be stated to be seen as false.

Moreover, as regards the innate fears of young children, the careful recent observations by C. W. Valentine,¹ largely repeating Watson's work, have shown that the stimuli to such fears are never simple. The setting is always all-important, and it is a *whole situation* which affects the child. The presence or absence of the mother, for instance, may make all the difference to the child's actual response.

This social factor of the child's response to particular adults has again been shown to be important in a recent study of children's day-time habits of sleep, in which it has been elaborately demonstrated that children will settle down to sleep more readily and sleep longer with one particular person in charge, than with another.* My own impression is that the behaviourists generally altogether under-estimate the significance of this type of social factor, because of their predilection for isolated mechanical situations. It is touched upon incidentally here and there, but little significant use is

made of it.

The importance of the social factor is again emphasised by one extremely interesting result in Brainard's attempt to repeat Koehler's experiments on apes with his own young child.³ The child's first response to her father's unusual behaviour in putting a proffered chocolate out of the window, in order to see whether she would understand how to get it,

¹ C. W. Valentine, "The Innate Bases of Fear", *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, Vol. XXXVII.

^a R. Staples, "Some Factors Influencing the Afternoon Sleep of Children", *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, Vol. XLI.

³ P. Brainard : ** The Mentality of a Child Compared with that of Apes ", *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, Vol. XXXVII, p. 268.